



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**Alpha Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 79<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery**  
**434<sup>th</sup> Training Brigade**  
**Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503-5000**

07 October 2014

Dear Parents, Family Members, and Friends:

As graduation moves closer we have included some items that may make it easier to plan for and attend the family day presentation and graduation ceremony on 30 & 31 October 2014 respectively. Here are the timelines for Family Day and Graduation:

**Family Day: 30 October 2014**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Family members arrive to Family Day activities
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Family Day demonstration
11:00 a.m. – 7:50 p.m.	Pass privileges (Start time flexible due to safety briefings)
8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	Accountability formation

**Graduation: 31 October 2014**

<b>9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Doors Open to VIPs, Distinguished Guest, handicapped, and special needs visitors to be seated in McMahon Auditorium</b>
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Doors Open / Families seated in McMahon Auditorium
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Graduation at McMahon Auditorium
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Soldiers travel back to Battery area by bus
11:30 a.m. – 7:50 p.m.***	Pass privileges
8:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	Accountability formation in the Battery area

**\*\*\*NOTE:** Soldiers will begin shipping out to their Advance Individual Training (AIT)/home station as early as 2 a.m. (0200hrs.) on Saturday. Soldiers are **not** authorized to ride with family members to AIT or home station. The Soldiers who will not graduate will have pass privileges only after all duty details have been completed. To avoid confusion and congestion, we ask that there be no visitors during the duty day prior to Family Day.

Soldiers who are assigned to AIT units located on Fort Sill (Military Occupational Skill (MOS) 13 & 14 Series) will report to their AIT units @ 3:00 p.m. (1500hrs.) on graduation day for inprocessing and should be released on pass following inprocessing. Their weekend pass privileges are determined by their AIT unit. The AIT unit will have their own standards, policy and procedures for newly assigned AIT Soldiers and pass privileges. Once the Soldiers leave Alpha Battery 1-79 FA and are assigned to their AIT unit, we will no longer have the ability to grant pass privileges. The pass privileges will be determined by their new AIT unit.

**FAMILY DAY**

**Demonstration:** The family day demonstration is a brief look at the many fundamental skills your Soldiers have learned and applied during their 9 Weeks of Basic Combat Training (BCT). Family Day will be held in the "Battery Area" located at Bldg. 6007, Rothwell Street. Please see the appropriate signs and uniformed personnel in the area to assist you and point you in the right direction. Use the strip maps that are enclosed to get you to the various locations. Please keep the traffic flowing at the access points or entry gates on "POST" to alleviate any traffic congestions. We ARE NOT the only basic training unit on

this post, nor are we the only unit conducting Family Day and Graduation on the same day. Events of this nature are almost weekly. Family members, and those that attend, will receive a welcome brief and a safety briefing by me following the demonstrations. Family members will be allowed to mingle with their Soldier immediately after the briefing. Please adhere to the schedule in order to facilitate the schedule of events.

### **PASS PRIVILEGES**

**30 and 31 October 2014:** All “ELIGIBLE” Soldiers with families are encouraged to go on pass with their respective families at the designated times listed above. Please ask your Soldier if they are “ELIGIBLE” for pass privileges prior to making plans. Please make your arrangements and plans accordingly. Family members are asked to leave the Battery area no later than 8:00 p.m. while here visiting their Soldier.

**Field Artillery and Air Defense Artillery Soldiers:** MOS 13 Series (Field Artillery) & MOS 14 Series (Air Defense Artillery ) Soldiers who will remain here at Fort Sill for AIT will have to sign in to AIT before they are released on pass with their families following graduation.

**Pass Do's and Don'ts:** Designated passes are an opportunity to celebrate and relax with family and friends. Soldiers are required to depart and return in their complete Army Service Uniform (ASU) with includes the jacket, pants, LS/SS shirt, tie/tab, and beret) and allowed to change into Class B uniform (same as above, minus jacket) while on pass. Soldiers are to remain only in these two uniforms, but will return to the battery in the same uniform as they departed in. **Soldiers are not authorized to wear civilian attire while on pass.** Soldiers who are caught out of uniform will have their pass revoked and be ordered back to the Battery.

Please remind your Soldier to conduct themselves with professionalism, honor, and pride at all times. Please do not encourage your Soldier to travel outside the immediate Lawton-Fort Sill area while on pass. Soldiers are allowed to accompany Family members to local establishments to include restaurants and hotels. The following establishments are extremely prohibited: bars, clubs, adult entertainment, and casinos of any kind. All Initial Entry Training Soldiers, regardless of age are prohibited from using tobacco products of any kind, consume alcoholic beverages, or drive vehicles during Pass Privileges.

\*Please help us help your Soldier by transporting them back to the Battery area no later than 7:50 p.m. (1945hrs.) so he/she can be on time for accountability formation at 8:00 p.m. (2000hrs.)\*

### **DRIVING ON FORT SILL**

**Gate Checks:** All civilian and military personnel entering Fort Sill must present a valid driver's license, state, valid passport, or federal identification card at the gate. Please take into consideration that all unregistered personally owned vehicles are subject to search by the Fort Sill Police based on the National Threat Level as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. These searches are for your safety and for the security of the military installation. Personally owned firearms are not allowed on Fort Sill. Please show the utmost cooperation with all security personnel and have the included strip maps readily available upon entry to Fort Sill. This will help keep traffic flow moving and lessen congestion at the gates. There will be another Family Day and Graduation ongoing at the same time so please ensure you follow the signs to the A/1-79 FA Family Day and Graduation.

**Cell Phone Use:** Use of cell or mobile phones while driving on Fort Sill is strictly prohibited without the use of a “hands free” device for the driver of the vehicle. Passengers may use cell phones

uninhibited. The Fort Sill police strictly enforce this rule with a minimum fine of \$75 for the safety of all personnel on this installation. Soldiers will be allowed to access their cell phones from their personal baggage prior to signing out on pass.

**Speed:** Please note posted speed limits on post which do not exceed 40 mph. Drivers should note that max speed in the Field Artillery Training Center is 15 mph and 10 mph when passing Soldiers walking or marching in formation. Additionally, the speed limits on the BCT side of Fort Sill are significantly lower than main post and do not exceed 25 mph.

**Concealed Weapons:** Please remember if you are a weapons permit holder that under no circumstances are personal firearms authorized on Fort Sill on your person or in your vehicle. If you choose to bring them with you, you must leave them in your lodging arrangements or stored appropriately off-post.

### **GRADUATION DAY**

**Travel to AIT:** IET Soldiers are NOT authorized leave in between BCT and AIT. **Please note that your Soldier is NOT authorized to travel with you to their next duty station.** At no time are IET Soldiers allowed to drive/operate any motorized vehicle.

**Your final Travel Considerations:** When making flight reservations, please keep in mind travel time to the airports (approximately 1.5 hours to Oklahoma City / Will Rogers World Airport, and 20 minutes to Lawton Regional Airport), as well as additional time for the heightened security checks and airline check-in (approximately 1 hour at Oklahoma City / Will Rogers World Airport and 1 hour at Lawton Regional Airport). Please also note that you will encounter \$3.25 in one-way tolls when traveling on Interstate 44 (Bailey Turnpike). Additionally, a list of recommended hotels is available at [www.fortsillhotels.com](http://www.fortsillhotels.com) if needed.

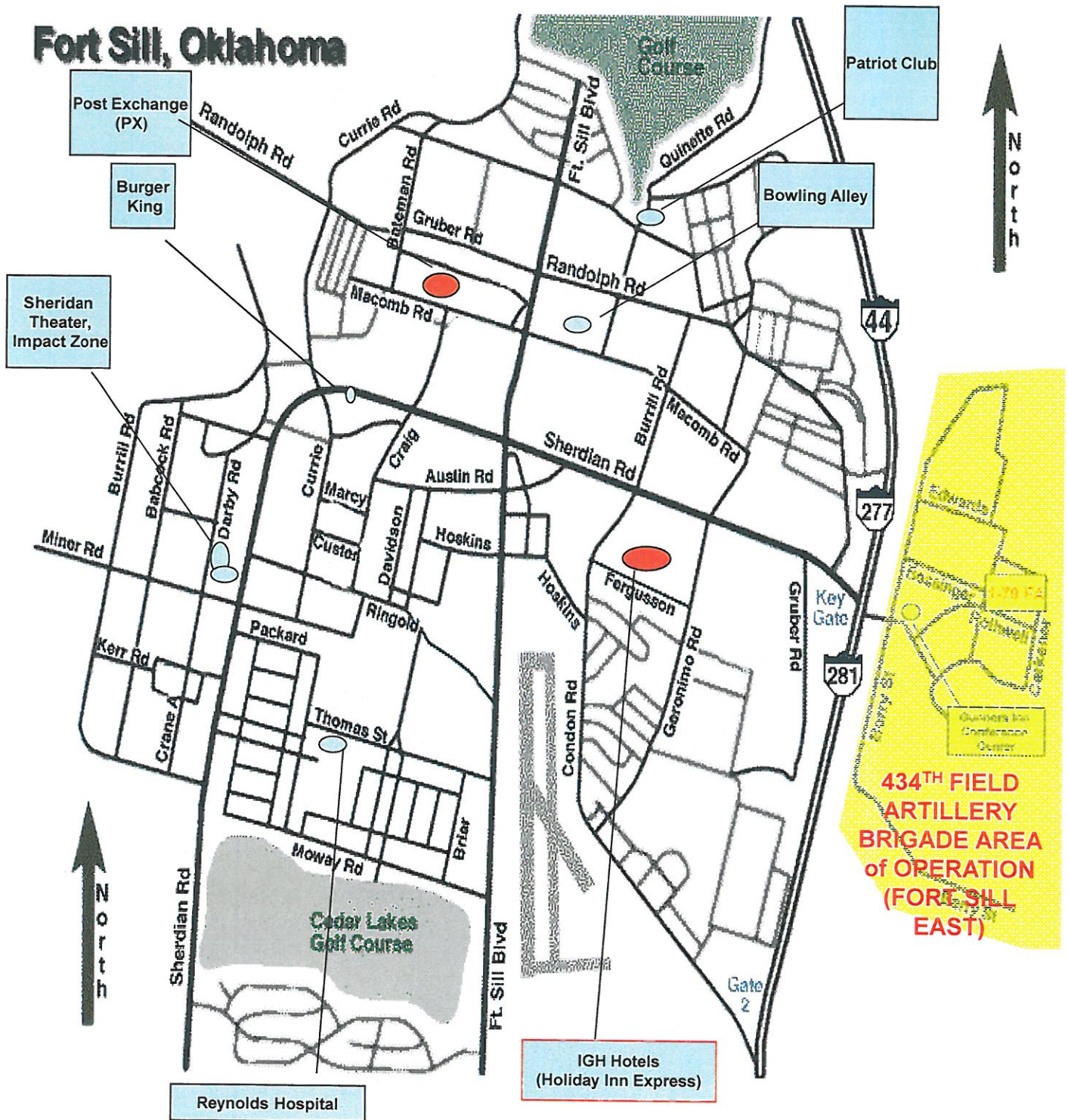
Lawton-Fort Sill is a relatively large city in Southwest OK that has a number of options in terms of modern accommodations and local attractions. In addition, Fort Sill is a National Historic landmark (est. 1869) with a rich past that is well worth your time exploring. As always, please contact us with any questions about the above mentioned information or any other questions you may have at (580) 442-1359/1309/1308 or [alphathunder179@gmail.com](mailto:alphathunder179@gmail.com). Travel safely!

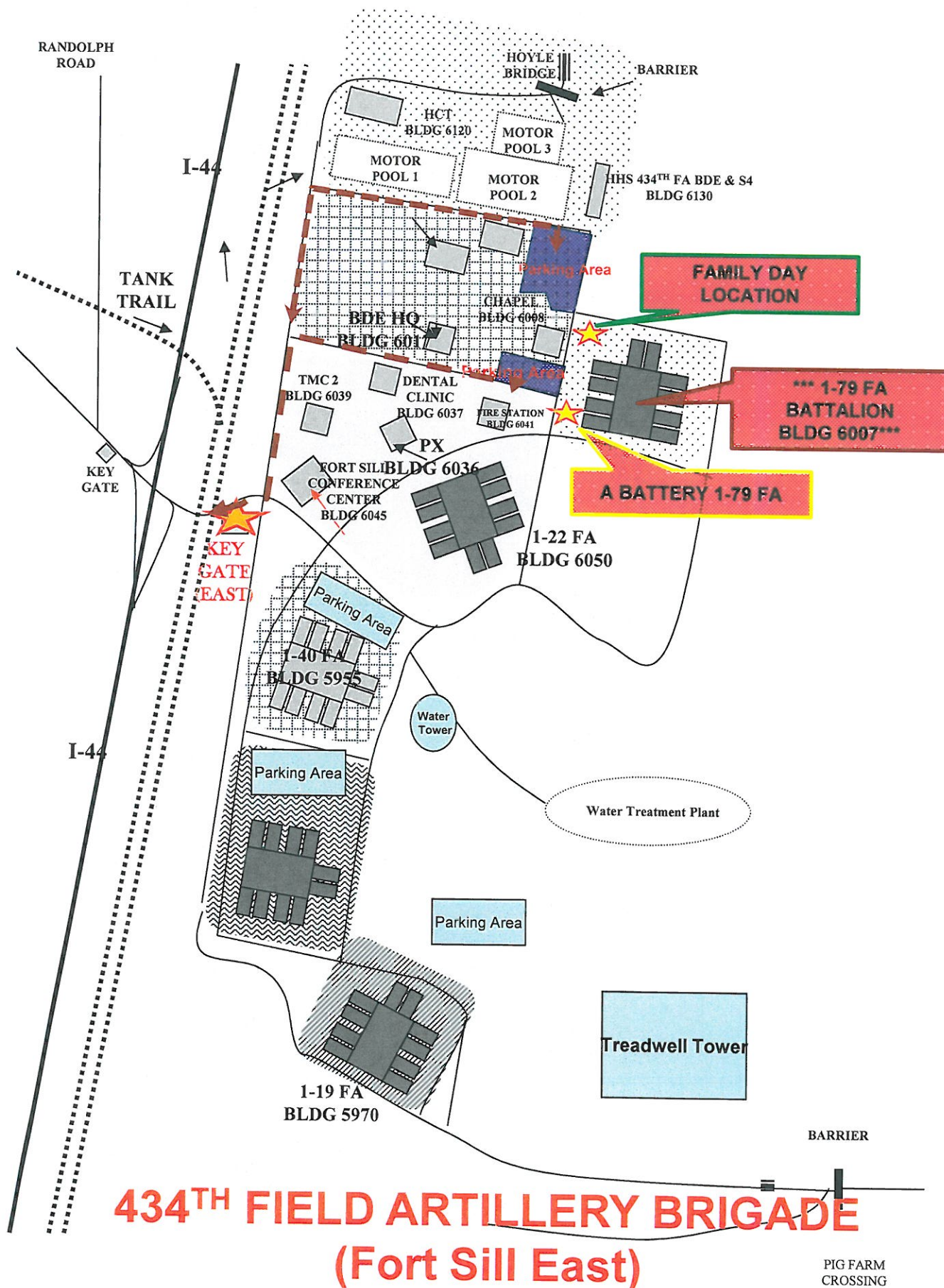
Respectfully,

Jonathan S. Wilder  
CPT, FA  
Commanding



# Fort Sill, Oklahoma









## 13 Series (Field Artillery) Parents

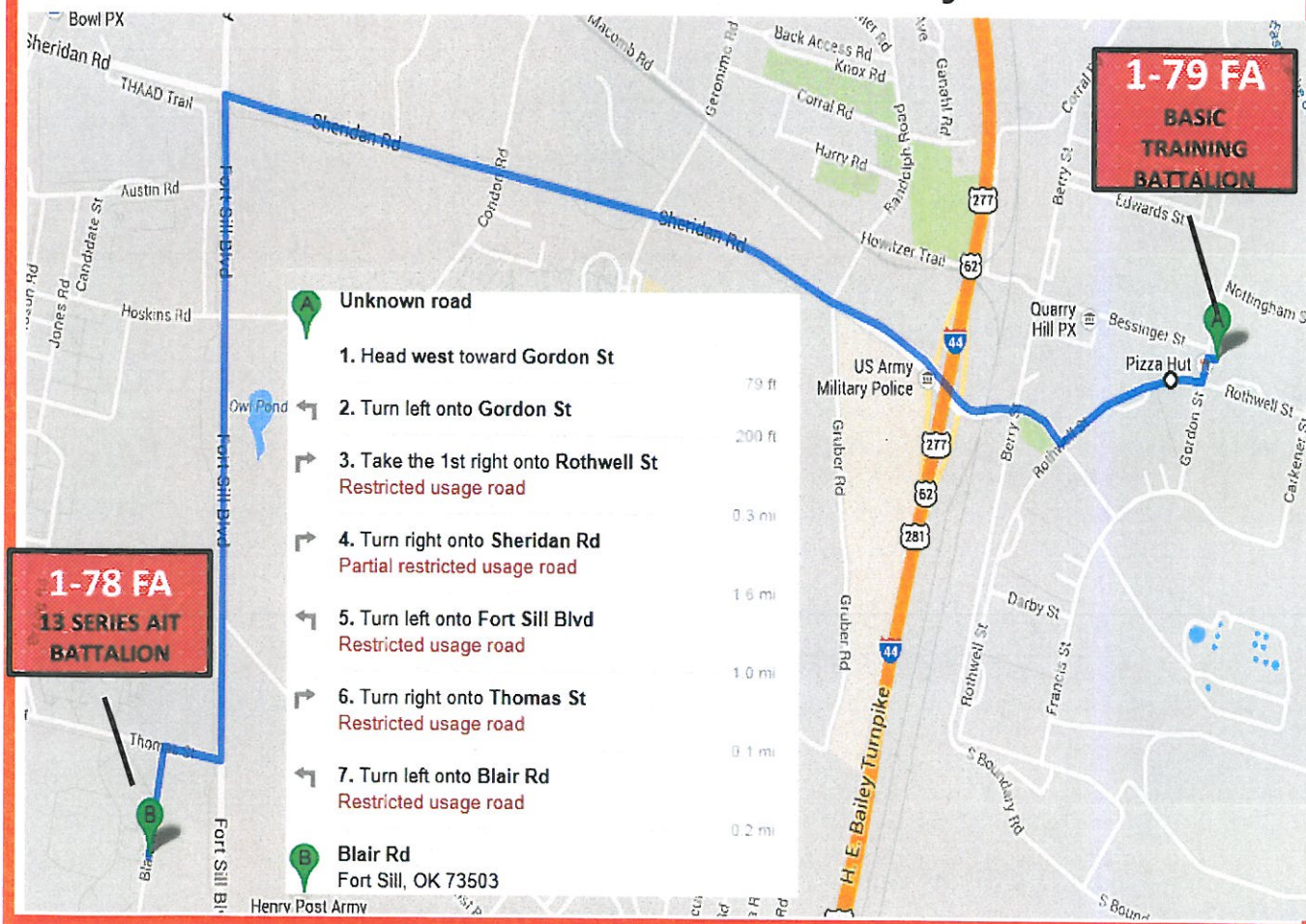
### Welcome to 1-78 Field Artillery "Teamwork" Battalion

**Graduating Unit:**  
**A Battery 1-79 FA, 434<sup>th</sup> FA BDE**

**Parents Briefing will begin at approx. 12:30 PM.**

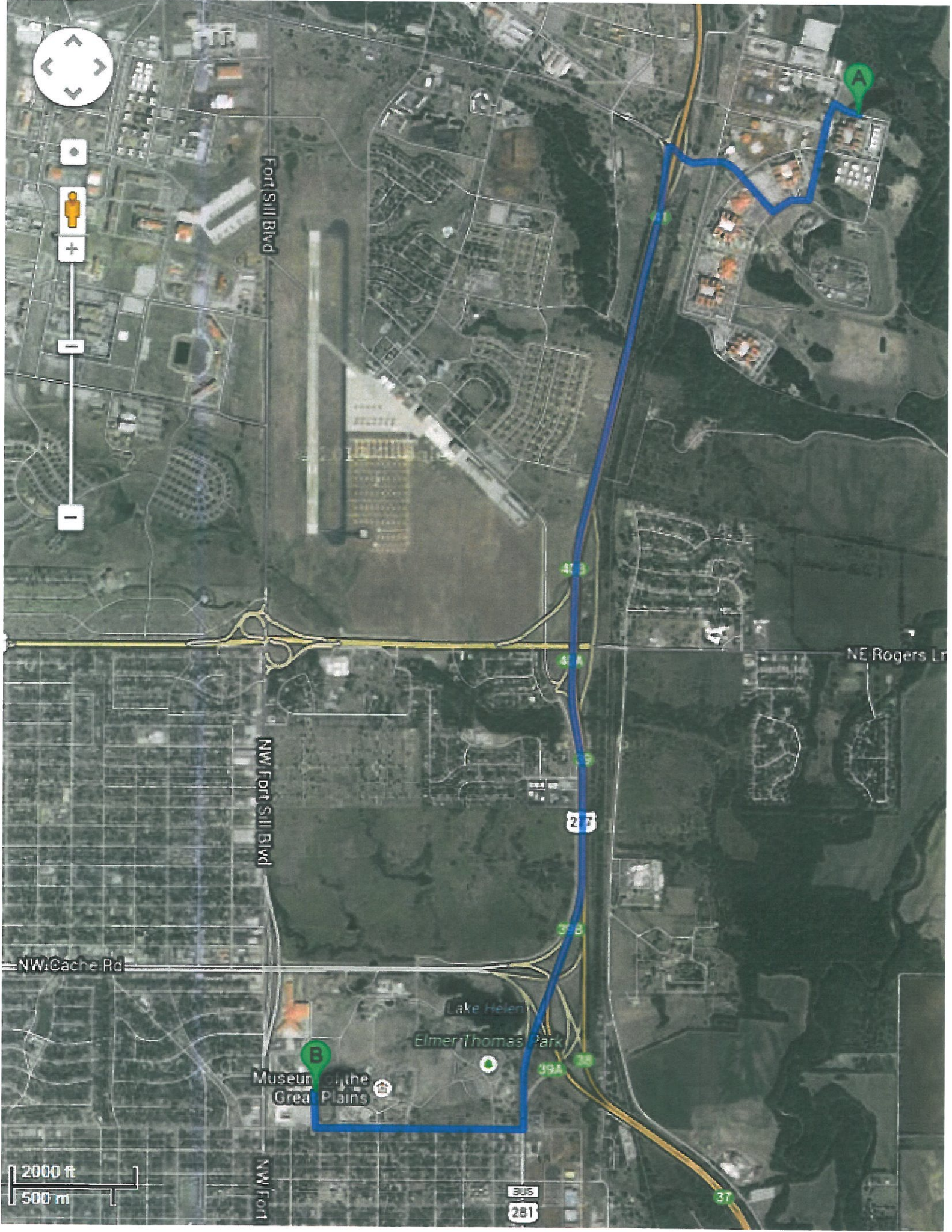
**Soldiers will be released in the parents care for the weekend following in processing with 1-78 FA and will have to return NLT 3:00 PM on Sunday.**

### Directions to 1-78 Field Artillery AIT



**4402 BLAIR ST. FORT SILL OK**





Fort Sill Blvd

NE Rogers Ln

NW Fort Sill Blvd

NW Cache Rd

Museum of the Great Plains

Elmer Thomas Park

Lake Helen

227

BUS 281

2000 ft  
500 m